



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A DNA molecule comprising a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid, wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process, and wherein the viral protein is not a protein of the Rous sarcoma virus.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The DNA molecule of Claim 1, wherein the budding mediating motif comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of PTAP (SEQ ID NO: 1), [[PPXY]] PPX₁Y (SEQ ID NO:2), [[YXXL]] YX₂X₃L (SEQ ID NO:3) and a combination thereof.

Claim 3 (original): The DNA molecule of Claim 2, wherein the viral protein is a Gag protein of a retrovirus or a matrix protein of a rhabdovirus or filovirus.

Claim 4 (original): The DNA molecule of Claim 1, wherein the viral protein is a Gag protein of a retrovirus or a matrix protein of a rhabdovirus or filovirus.

Claim 5 (original): The DNA molecule of Claim 1, wherein at least one codon for the budding mediating motif is deleted.

Claim 6 (original): The DNA molecule of Claim 5, wherein one or more codons surrounding the budding mediating motif are deleted.

Claim 7 (original): The DNA molecule of Claim 1 which further comprises one or more additional nucleic acids, each encoding an additional viral protein.

Claim 8 (original): The DNA molecule of Claim 7, wherein the additional viral proteins are selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 Pol, Env, Rev, Tat and Nef.

Claim 9 (original): The DNA molecule of Claim 7 which comprises a molecular clone of HIV-1 or SIV.

Claim 10 (original): A vector comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 1.

Claim 11 (original): A composition comprising the vector of Claim 10.

Claim 12 (original): A composition comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 1.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method for immunizing a subject which comprises administering an immunizing effective amount of the DNA molecule of Claim 1.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 13 comprising further administering a recombinant protein or vector boost.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A method for immunizing a subject which comprises administering an immunizing effective amount of the vector in Claim 10.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 15 comprising further administering a recombinant protein boost.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A method for immunizing a subject which comprises administering an immunizing effective amount of the composition of Claim 11.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 17 comprising further administering a recombinant protein boost.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A method for immunizing a subject with comprises administering an immunizing effective amount of the composition of Claim 12.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19 further comprising administering a recombinant protein or vector boost.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A method for augmenting a cellular immune response to a virus which comprises administering an effective amount of the DNA molecule of Claim 1 to augment the cellular immune response to the virus.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 21 further comprising administering a recombinant protein or vector boost.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): A method for augmenting a cellular immune response to a virus which comprises administering an effective amount of the vector of Claim 10 to augment the cellular immune response to the virus.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 23 further comprising administering a recombinant protein boost.

Claim 25 (new): The DNA molecule of claim 1,
wherein the viral protein is a protein of HIV.

Claim 26 (new): The DNA molecule of claim 1,

wherein the viral protein is a protein of SIV.

Claim 27 (new): The DNA molecule of Claim 2,
wherein X_1 is not P.

Claim 28 (new): The DNA molecule of Claim 1,
wherein the budding mediating motif consists of PPPY.